

TTA Newsletter



“Our mission is to support the needs of
Texas’ public transportation systems through
statewide advocacy and education.”

This newsletter is sponsored by:

IMPCO

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IMPCO Automotive has partnered with world leading bus manufactures like Thomas Bus, Arboc and Glaval and offer Altoona tested Dedicated High Floor and Low Floor CNG Systems across multiple bus platforms.

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BALCH SPRINGS MIDTOWN EXPRESS SET TO LAUNCH JUNE 15TH; RIDE FOR FREE JUNE 15 – AUGUST 31, 2015

TERRELL, Texas (June 8, 2015) – STAR Transit and the City of Balch Springs are in the final stages of planning the launch of the Balch Springs Midtown Express, a new Commuter Demand Response route, beginning June 15th. The proposed route is designed to circulate within Balch Springs with on-demand trips to the DART station on Buckner Road. Service will be coordinated with the current STAR Transit demand response service. The route will run once each hour, Monday – Friday, 5:00am – 10:00am and 2:00pm – 7:00pm. The fare for the new route is \$1.00 but citizens will be able to ride for FREE from June 15 – August 31, 2015.

Omega Hawkins, STAR Transit Executive Director, said, “This will improve the efficiency of the current demand response service and give Balch Springs residents access to the DART station more times during the day, especially early in the morning and later in the evening.”

Susan Cluse, Balch Springs City Manager said, “The launch of the new service allows for additional opportunities for citizens of Balch Springs to have access to affordable, reliable and convenient transportation service in Balch Springs.”

The public is invited to attend the Launch Ceremony taking place Monday, June 15, 2015 from 9:00am – 11:00am at the Balch Springs Municipal Center, located at 311 Hickory Tree Road, Balch Springs, 75180. Refreshments and free giveaways will be provided.

For more information regarding the new service, call 877-631-5278, Monday – Friday, 8:00am – 4:00pm or visit www.STARtransit.org.



VIA Celebrates 10th Annual National Dump the Pump Day

SAN ANTONIO (June 17, 2015) – VIA Metropolitan Transit is joining public transportation agencies across the nation to promote Dump the Pump on June 18, 2015 - a campaign that encourages people to leave their vehicles at home and use public transportation.

“With the continued fluctuation of gas prices, there’s an added incentive for riding VIA - the award-winning public transportation system in the greater San Antonio region,” said VIA President/CEO Jeff Arndt. “This national day reminds everyone to ‘dump the pump’ and ride transit. It’s a convenient travel option that also helps reduce transportation costs, fuel consumption, and vehicle emissions.”

To celebrate and thank riders who have dumped the pump, VIA will hold celebrations on Thursday, June 18, 2015, at VIA’s Transit Centers. There will be refreshments, giveaways, and activities for bus riders, including opportunities to complete VIA’s VISION 2040 survey at www.Vision2040survey. People who ride VIA will also be encouraged to post their stories and photos as they “dump the pump” on VIA’s Facebook and Twitter pages.

Public transportation helps to make a community economically prosperous and competitive. Every \$1 invested in public transportation generates approximately \$4 in economic returns, powering community growth and revitalization.

Sponsored by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), National Dump the Pump Day is a day that encourages people to ride public transportation to take them where they need to go, instead of driving a car.

VIA Metropolitan Transit provides public transportation services to 13 cities in the San Antonio area and the unincorporated areas of Bexar County. VIA operates seven days a week on 90 routes, and last year, VIA provided 44 million rides across the region. VIA's mission is to enhance the community's environment and quality of life by providing regional and customer-oriented public transportation that is dependable, cost-effective and enticing to more riders. VIA's AAA bond rating reflects the organization's sound management and financial practices. Visit www.viainfo.net for more information. Follow us on www.facebook.com/VIATransit, www.Twitter.com/VIA_Transit, and www.YouTube.com/user/VIAMetroTransit.



M-Line Trolley Running on New Loop through the Dallas Arts District

On May 4, the M-Line Trolley – long a familiar sight in Uptown Dallas – began traveling over a new loop of track through the Dallas Arts District. The new section provides greater access to downtown Dallas, adds stops near DART Rail at St. Paul and Pearl/Arts District stations, and covers the “last mile” for many downtown workers.

"The Dallas Arts District is the most accessible neighborhood in our region via a number of transit options, including two light rail stops served by all four light rail lines and the free D-Link bus," Dallas Arts District Executive Director Catherine Cuellar said. "With the extension of the M-Line Trolley, we look forward to welcoming more residents and visitors to our urban, walkable neighborhood."

DART was the project sponsor and recipient of \$4.9 million from the U.S. Department of Transportation as part of the Urban Circulator Grant Program. The City of Dallas received a local match of \$5 million from the North Central Texas Council of Governments. DART and the city used the funds to each build half of the track extension.

The reversing loop, combined with the turntable near DART's Cityplace/Uptown Station, enables the McKinney Avenue Transit Authority (MATA), which owns and operates the M-Line Trolley, to use more of its heritage streetcars that travel in only one direction.

Residents of Uptown also have improved access to downtown.



"Increasingly, people in Uptown are using the M-Line as a viable commuting option," MATA CEO Phil Cobb said. "For them, the extension will be a real service enhancement."

The new track was designed to accommodate both heritage trolleys and modern streetcars; ultimately, it will connect to future extensions of the Dallas Streetcar system, which opened April 13.

Waco Transit begins providing rural transportation as of July 1, 2015

A new rural transit service promises to greatly improve connectivity between Waco and its outskirts.

Starting July 1, any county resident outside of Waco Transit's current fixed route system can arrange for a McLennan County Rural Transit District van to pick them up and take them anywhere in a six-county area. The fare schedule has been set at \$3 per in-county trip or \$5 for trips that cross county lines.

The service isn't just for the disabled or elderly but can be used to get to college classes, jobs or errands. It will be available not only to rural areas but to suburban areas such as Bellmead, China Spring, Lorena and Woodway.

"We want people to understand there's going to be a lot more service available," said John Hendrickson, general manager of Waco Transit, which runs the service. "If they need a trip, call us. If it's going to the beauty salon, call us. It's not just for trips to the doctor's appointment. . . . If they're going to work, going to school, whatever the case is, this is general transportation."

Local leaders say this is just the first step in creating a full-service, countywide transit system, and they hope in the next year or two to run buses on fixed routes to towns such as McGregor.

The new program replaces an existing service administered by the Heart of Texas Council of Governments and funded by federal rural transit grants.

Federal State Funds

As ridership numbers increase, Hendrickson said he expects the federal-state rural transit funding for McLennan County will increase and the countywide system will grow.

"It's really going to change the dynamics of public transportation in this city and the county," he said.

Hendrickson said he would like Waco Transit to provide fixed-route commuter service between Waco and towns such as West and McGregor, even North Fort Hood.

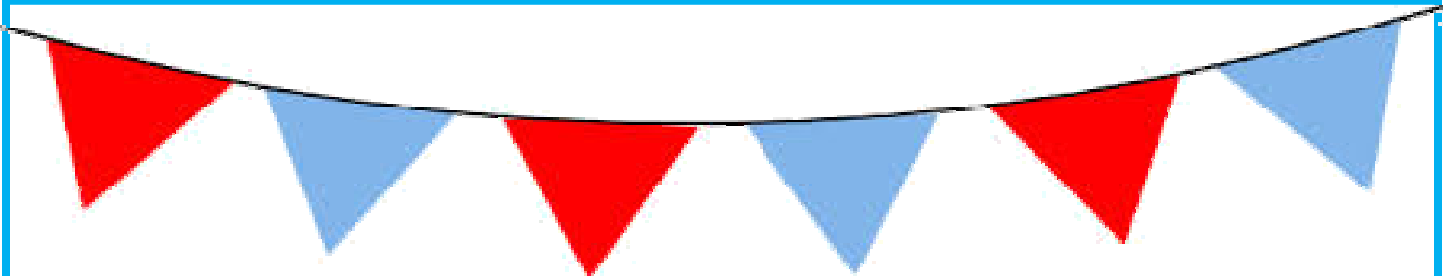
He said such expansions would require some contributions from major employers in those places.

Waco Mayor Malcolm Duncan Jr. said he also would like to see fixed-route service outside Waco starting next year.

He said local leaders will be monitoring which areas of the county have the most demand for the demand-response service before deciding where permanent routes would go.

"There's already interest in providing a route to the call center in McGregor," he said. "It's like any market-driven service — it's going to be based on ridership and usage."





Congratulations to the new PTAC chair, Rob Stephens with EZ Rider!!

Please join us to celebrate this occasion.

Date: July 21, 2015

Time: 5:30p.m. to 7:30p.m.

Location: Ruth Chris Steakhouse

107 W. 6th Street

Austin, Texas 78701

We hope to see you there!

Sponsored by:





Upcoming Events

TTA Night Golf Classic

Date: October 21, 2015

Location: Waco, Texas

More details to come soon! Information will be posted on the TTA website: TxTransit.org

TxDOT Semi-Annual

Operators Meeting

Date: July 22nd

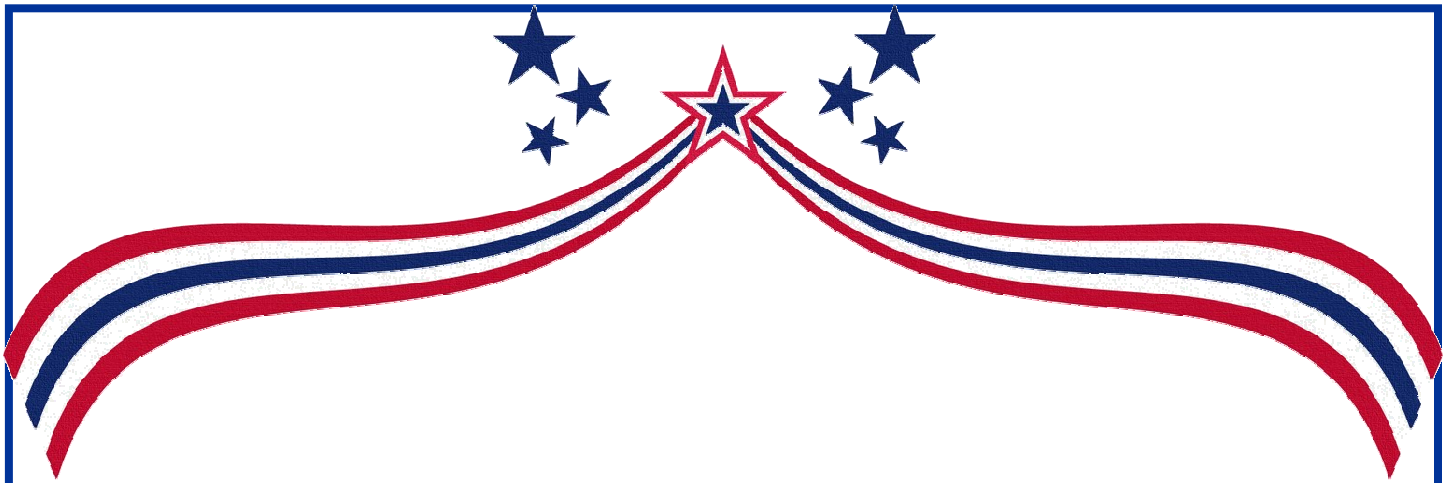
Time: 8:30a.m.-3:30p.m.

Location: 200 E. Riverside Drive (auditorium) Austin, Texas

2016 TTA State Rodeo and Conference

**Date: April 22-26,
2015**

**Location:
Waco, Texas**



Thank you IMPCO Automotive for sponsoring this newsletter! For more information regarding IMPCO Automotive, please contact Brandon Fitzgerald at 765.964.6009 or by email at bfitzgerald@impcoautomotive.com

This sponsorship helps support the mission of the Texas Transit Association.

To place an article in future newsletters, please email

**Charlotte Payne at
charlottep@wacotx.gov**

If you have pictures to go along with your article, please send them as well.